

## MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~ACTIONNSS/NSC, State Dept.,  
OSD, JCS reviews  
completed

August 20, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER

FROM: RICHARD T. KENNEDY  
JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE

SUBJECT: WSAG Paper on Pay Raise for Vang Pao's  
Troops

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A WSAG paper has been sent to you at San Clemente forwarding a CIA recommendation that a pay raise [ ] be approved for Vang Pao's troops in Laos during FY 1972 (a copy of this paper is at Tab A). This recommendation is based on a request put to our Chargé in Vientiane by Souvanna Phouma during a discussion of Vang Pao's probable reaction to a proposal that his forces withdraw from the Plain of Jars in return for a cease-fire and neutralization of the Plaine des Jarres. Souvanna's implication was that the pay raise would help to get a favorable reaction from Vang Pao.

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The CIA recommendation to increase salary payments to Vang Pao's forces backs up strong endorsements by our Chargé and the CIA Station Chief in Vientiane. The Station Chief says that there would apparently be no companion pay increases for the irregulars in other military regions of Laos--Souvanna Phouma has said he would not allow this. (If the salary increase for Vang Pao's men becomes known, similar increases [ ] There would be no effect on salary scales for the FAR [ ]

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[ ] Defense (Mr. Packard), the JCS (Admiral Moorer), and State (Ambassador Johnson) have all concurred in the CIA recommendation.

We believe that the salary increase is desirable. Without it, Vang Pao is less likely to accept our proposal for neutralization of the PDJ, and in addition a failure to grant it might adversely affect the morale of the Meo, who are now fighting well. If any irregular forces deserve a pay raise, the Meo certainly do. There might, of course, be some domestic problems if Congress learns of a Meo pay raise at a time when U. S. Government salaries are being frozen. [ ] be lived with.

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Recommendation:

That you concur in the recommendation that a salary increase be granted to Vang Pao's forces, and authorize us to make the necessary arrangements with OMB.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

SECRET/SENSITIVE